

Claims

1. A sausage-producing device (1) comprising a stuffing unit (16) with a charging pipe (3) for stuffing sausage skins, and a length-dimensioning unit (5) for controlled removal of the stuffed sausage skins, **characterized in that** a clip module (8) for closing the stuffed sausage skins is arranged directly after said length-dimensioning unit (5) when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins.
2. A device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the charging pipe (3) has associated therewith a twist-off unit (4).
3. A device according to claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) includes a cutter.
4. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) includes a loop former.
5. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the clip module (8) is followed by a transfer unit (12).
6. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the transfer unit (12) is followed by a conveyor belt.
7. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the transfer unit (12) is followed by a suspension unit (10).
8. A device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the stuffing unit (16), the length-dimensioning unit (5) and the clip module (8) are connected via control lines to a control means (7) for the sausage-producing device so that the functions of the length-dimensioning unit (5) and of the clip module (8) can be synchronized.

9. A device according to claims 1, 5 and 8, **characterized in that** the transfer unit (12) as well as the conveyor belt or the suspension unit are connected to the control means for the sausage-producing device via control lines so as to synchronize the functions of these components with the functions of the stuffing unit (16), of the length-dimensioning unit (5) and of the clip module (8).

10. A method of producing sausages comprising the steps of stuffing sausage skins via a charging pipe (3) and transporting them away in a controlled manner via a length-dimensioning unit (5), **characterized in that** the stuffed sausage skins are closed by a clip module (8) directly after the length-dimensioning unit (5).

11. A method according to claim 10, **characterized in that** the sausage skins are twisted off after stuffing and before they are transported away via the length-dimensioning unit (5).

12. A method according to claim 10 or 11, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) is controlled via a control means (7) in such a way that the stuffed sausage skins are closed synchronously with the stuffing of the sausage skins.

13. A method according to one of the claims 10 to 12, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) closes the stuffed sausage skins at two juxtaposed points.

14. A method according to claim 13, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) cuts through the stuffed sausage skins between these two points.

15. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 14, **characterized in that** cutting through is effected after each n-th closure so as to obtain chains of sausages which comprise a specific number of sausages ($n \in \mathbb{IN}$).

16. A method according to one of the claims 10 to 15, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) closes the stuffed sausage skins twice at the twist-off point.

17. A method according to at least one of the claims 10 to 16, **characterized in that** the stuffed sausage skins, which have been closed by the clip module (8), are advanced to a transfer unit (12).

18. A method according to at least one of the claims 11 to 17, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport, the stuffed sausage skins are transferred to a conveyor belt or a suspension unit after the transfer unit (12).

19. A method according to at least one of the claims 10 to 18, **characterized in that** the functions of the clip module (18) take place in synchronism with the functions of the length-dimensioning unit and the transfer unit.

20. A length-dimensioning unit for use in a sausage-producing device (1) according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the length-dimensioning unit (5) includes a clip module (8) which is arranged at the rear end thereof, when seen in the direction of transport of the sausages.